

Reasons for Allowance

1. An after-final amendment was received from the applicant on December 31, 2007.
2. Claims 3-5 and 11-20 have been canceled.
3. Claims 1, 2 and 6-10 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The buoyancy compensator device as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a device that is comprised of an expandable air chamber in the form of a vest with shoulder straps and a lower band, a manifold that connects said expandable air chamber to a plurality of outlets by a control valve, and a mechanical inflator with a pushbutton inflation control, where said manifold is further comprised of tubular elements that are connected to at least one upper one-way membrane, at least one lower one-way membrane, and at least one lateral one-way membrane that is arranged at one end of said lower band, or at an end of a corrugated hose.
5. The prior art as disclosed by Buckle (US 4,009,583) shows the use of a buoyancy compensator device that is comprised of an air chamber and at least two outlets, one of said outlets arranged in an upper region of said device, and the other located in a lower region of said device, and a manifold that connects said air chamber to said outlets by means of a control valve with a pushbutton control. Garofalo (EP 1136351 A2) discloses a buoyancy compensator device that is comprised of an expandable air chamber with at least two outlets, one of said outlets being located in an

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upper region of said device, and the other located in a lower region of said device, and a manifold with tubular elements, where each of said outlets is further comprised of a one-way membrane.

Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

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January 24, 2008

/Lars A Olson/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3617